

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application in light of the above amendments and following comments is courteously solicited.

Initially Applicants wish to acknowledge the indication of allowance of claims 44-47. With regard to the claim objections raised by the examiner on Page 2 of his office action with respect to claims 37 and 43, claims 37 and 43 have been amended so as to overcome these objections thereby rendering same moot.

With regard to the rejections of claims 37-43 and 48-57 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, Applicants by the instant amendment have cancelled claim 54 and has amended claims 37, 38, 39, 43, 48, 49, 51, 55, 56 and 57 so as to overcome the examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

In light of the foregoing amendments it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims as pending are now in condition for allowance.

Applicants submit herewith an Information Disclosure Statement based on Japanese document 62-111376. This document was cited on Page 1 of the first paragraph of the Background of the Invention. An Information Disclosure Statement was inadvertently not previously submitted and, accordingly, is submitted concurrently herewith.

The early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

It is submitted that the claims as amended herein patentably define over the art relied on by the Examiner and early allowance of same is courteously solicited.

If any fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

Tokimi Nago et al.

By

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I, Rachel Piscitelli, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on November 10, 2006.

